

SMELT WORKING GROUP

Monday, December 22, 2008

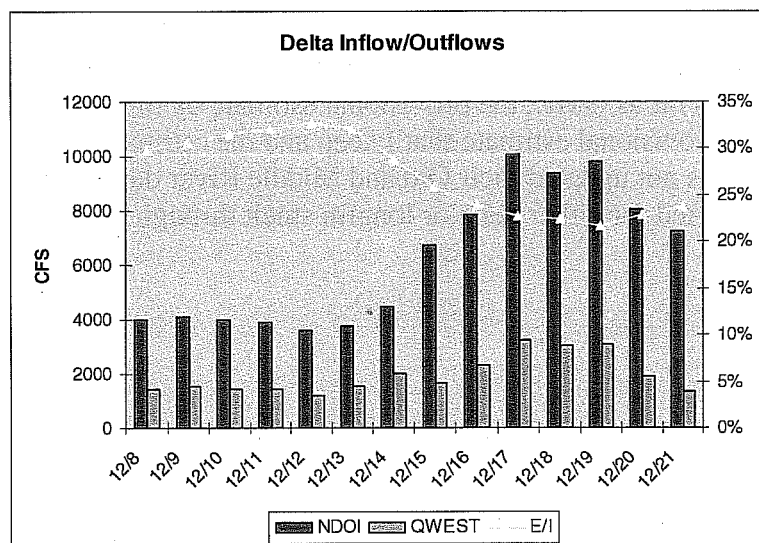
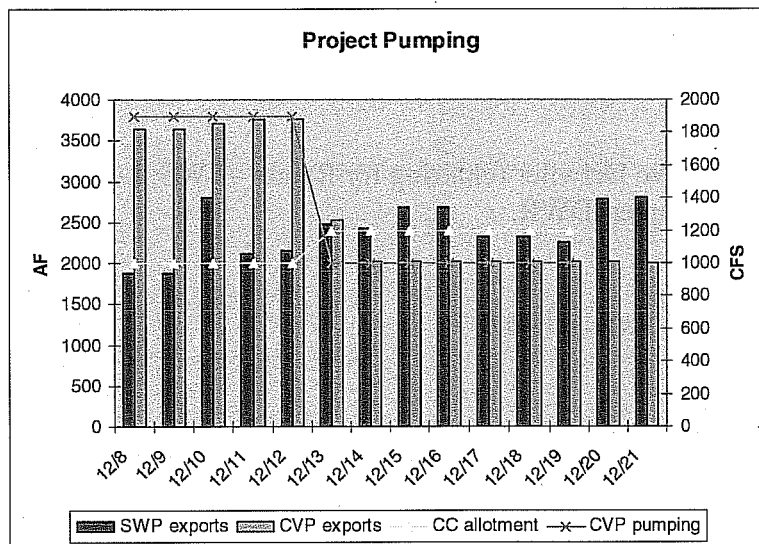
Attendees convened by conference call: Steve Detwiler (chairing for Ryan)—FWS; Leigh Bartoo—FWS, Fred Feyrer—USBR, Ted Sommer, DWR.

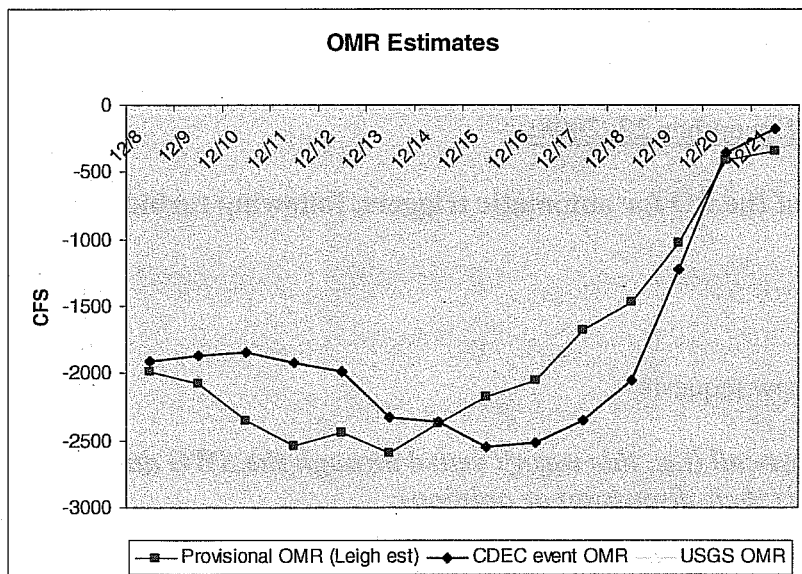
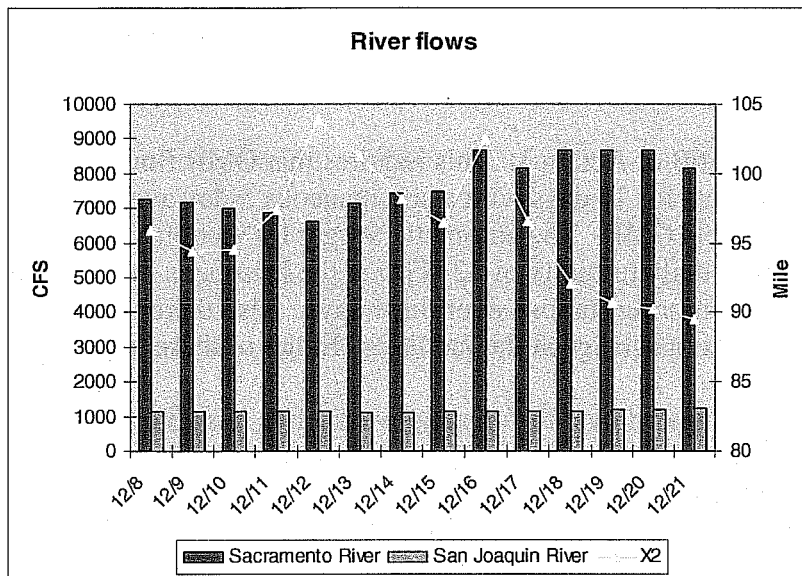
Agenda:

- 1) Review of relevant data (turbidity, salvage, climate)
- 2) Update on FMWT
- 3) Discussion for Recommendation
- 4) Final determination proposed and resolved
- 5) Set next meeting

- 1) Leigh Bartoo summarized the current environmental data.

Temperatures for the 3 station average are around 8C. Turbidity (as per the new BO, part B of Action 1) is hovering just under 4 NTU. As far as OMR, the provisional estimate by the projects is not on the web yet, so I've included the provisional estimate that I keep and the estimate from the 15-min event data off CDEC. USGS has not updated their Old and Middle River data since early December. No salvage has been reported for either delta or longfin smelt through Dec 18. Graphs are depicted below.





2) FMWT Update (Erin Gleason via email report):

The December survey ran from 12/1 to 12/17, due to inclement weather and scheduling issues. Complete summary data for the December survey are not available for release at this time, and I've no new delta smelt data to report. I can report that no adult (or juvenile) longfin smelt were collected in December at 2084 criteria stations in the central and south Delta by either the FMWT or Bay Study surveys, so no export restrictions will be triggered based on trawl surveys. As soon as the December data are approved for release (they were sent up the chain of command last Friday), they will become available on the FMWT webpage at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/mwt/>.

Note: We since received via email from Randy Baxter that the FMWT RI is 2 for 2008.

3) Discussion for Recommendation

The recommendation is based on a review of factors.

- A. We are currently within Part B of Action 1. This requires that OMR flows be no more negative than -2,000 cfs for 14 days with a simultaneous 5-day average no more negative than -2,500 cfs OMR. The automatic trigger for Action 1 after December 20 is an average daily turbidity of 12 NTU at the Prisoner's Pt, Holland Cut and Victoria Canal monitoring stations over three days. Also there is a salvage trigger of three days of salvage at the facilities. Either of these triggers would start the action.
- B. Higher precipitation is anticipated over the ensuing week. It is possible that the trigger shall be met before the SWG meets again, but pretty unlikely.
- C. No salvage has been recorded.
- D. Therefore, the group sees no need to vary from the automatic trigger set within the BO at this time.

4) Weekly Recommendation To The Service For Delta Smelt

Recommendation for the week of December 22, 2008:

Operate within the prescriptions of the BO for automatic triggers, following turbidity and salvage triggers defined above.

Dissenting Opinion: None

Data Request for next week: No new requests.

This is Steve Detwiler's addition post-call (i.e., this wasn't vetted through the SWG and therefore does not necessarily reflect their discussion or opinion):

For purposes of calculating salvage risk thresholds, there is no current FMWT Index value available to determine a guideline Daily Salvage Index of $1.0 * \text{FMWT Index}$ (half the current FMWT Index). Before such time that this value is available, guidance is to utilize the RI and the equation $y = 3.0x$ (least squares regression with set intercept at origin—see chart below) to yield an estimate of FMWT Index from the RI. This year's FMWT RI is 2. Calculating a salvage threshold indicative of automatic triggering of Action 1 from this estimate yields a daily salvage index of any three days with 6 fish expanded salvage as the indicator to initiate action 1.

5) Next Meeting:

The Working Group will meet again Monday December 29 to review real time conditions and provide further recommendations to the Service with regards to directions on Action initiation for the December 30 WOMT meeting.

6) Advice For The California Department Of Fish And Game For Longfin Smelt

None at this time.

